

Amendments to the Claims:

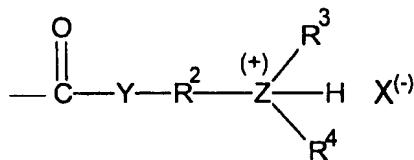
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. (Canceled).

13. (New) An antifouling coating composition comprising:

a rosin, and

a polymer comprising one or more salts of amine-functional groups and/or one or more salts of phosphine-functional groups bound to the backbone of the polymer consisting of or comprising a group of formula:



wherein

Y is O or NH,

Z is N or P,

R² is a C₂-C₁₂ divalent hydrocarbon group, preferably a C₂-C₈ divalent hydrocarbon group, more preferably a C₂-C₄ divalent hydrocarbon group.

R³ and R⁴ independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, preferably a C₁-C₆ alkyl group, more preferably a methyl, or an optionally substituted phenyl group,

X is the anionic residue of an acid having aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising at least 5 carbon atoms;

optionally, the polymer further comprises one or more quaternary ammonium- and/or quaternary phosphonium-functional groups that are neutralised by counter-ions, said counter ions consisting of the anionic residue of an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms.

14. (New) A coating composition according to claim 13, wherein the anionic residue comprises 5 to 50 carbon atoms.

15. (New) A coating composition according to claim 13, wherein the polymer, or a mixture of the polymer with other polymers present in the composition that comprise one or more salts of amine-functional groups and/or one or more salts of phosphine-functional groups and/or one or more quaternary ammonium and/or one or more quaternary phosphonium-functional groups bound to the backbone of the polymer, comprises a total amount of salt-comprising plus quaternary functional monomer building blocks of 5 to 40 mole%, calculated on the total amount of monomers of which the polymer or the polymer mixture has been built.

16. (New) A coating composition according to claim 13, wherein the coating composition has a binder comprising a blend of a rosin material and an auxiliary film-forming resin in a weight ratio of 20:80 to 95:5, the auxiliary film-forming resin comprising 20-100% by weight of a film-forming polymer (A), which is the salt group-comprising polymer having salts of amine-functional groups and/or salts of phosphine-functional groups bound to the backbone of the polymer, said salts comprising as counter-ion the anionic residue of an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising at least 5 carbon atoms, and 80-20% of a non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B).

17. (New) A coating composition according to claim 16, wherein the binder comprises a blend of the rosin material and the auxiliary film-forming resin in a weight ratio of 55:45 to 80:20.

18. (New) A coating composition according to claim 16, wherein the auxiliary film-forming resin comprises 30-90% by weight of the film-forming polymer (A) capable of hydrolysing or dissociating to a polymer soluble in sea water and 70-10% by weight of the non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B).

19. (New) A coating composition according to claim 15, wherein the non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B) is an acrylate ester polymer or a vinyl ether polymer.

20. (New) A coating composition according to claim 13, wherein the binder includes a non-polymeric plasticiser present at up to 50% by weight based on the total binder polymer.

21. (New) A method for protection of a man-made structure immersed in water such as boat hulls, buoys, drilling platforms, oil production rigs, and pipes comprising applying a coating composition of claim 13 to said structure.